

The Cary Arboretum

of The New York Botanical Garden



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Photo by T.S. Elias

Friends of the Arboretum listen as Dr. McAlpin guides them through the Crystal Palace.

Charter Members Visit the Crystal Palace

"A lovely day!" "A wonderful time!" "Congratulations!" Such were the comments of those taking part in the Cary Arboretum's March 17 excursion for Charter Members to the New York Botanical Garden.

Nearly sixty Charter Members met promptly at 8:30 in the morning at the Plant Science Building to board the charter bus to the Bronx, accompanied by staff members Dr. Thomas S. Elias, Jeanette Gorman, and Janice Claiborne, Membership Secretary.

The bus travellers and those arriving in their own cars met and regrouped at the Garden's recently restored Enid A. Haupt Conservatory. Aply guided by NYBG Fern Horticulturist, Dr. Bruce McAlpin, the group entered upon a dazzling display of sweet-smelling hyacinths, spring-flowering anemones, and perky-faced pansies, accented by the "topiary zoo". From there they

were led from herb gardens to majestic palms, spectacular orchids, unusual insectivores, graceful ferns to giant cacti and much, much more.

A delicious luncheon was served at the Garden's historic Snuff Mill, giving the Members a chance to relax, discuss the sights, and chat with new friends. A final stop was made at the "Shop-in-the-Garden" at the Museum Building where everyone had an opportunity to make purchases from a large selection of flowering and foliage plants, as well as other unique gifts and souvenirs of their visit.

Upon arrival "back home," each Member was presented with a pot of dwarf marigolds as a memento of the excursion. For this group of charter members, spring came a little earlier this year thanks to this day-long excursion at the NYBG's Crystal Palace.



Photo by Robin Parow

Looking towards the "music bowl" left to right are Jeanette Gorman, Roseann Shankman, Marianne Scialli, and Libby Podmaniczky who are members of the Arboretum's Music Committee.

Five Summer Concerts Planned at Arboretum

The Cary Arboretum will be the setting for a second season of summer concerts beginning Sunday afternoon June 3 with the Chamber Orchestra of the Hudson Valley Philharmonic.

The series, known as "Music at the Arboretum", includes five concerts, three of them scheduled to take place in the open-air "music bowl," a natural amphitheatre behind the Gifford House Education and Visitor Center on the Sharon Turnpike. It is bordered by pine and hemlock trees and overlooks a branch of the Wappingers Creek. Two concerts are scheduled to take place in the Arboretum's vaulted Plant Science Building.

The second concert, June 17, will feature the Hudson Valley Brass Quintet Ensemble. On July 1, pianist Timothy Vernon will perform in the

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The Music Committee of the Cary Arboretum is planning a Spring Dance on June 1 at Innisfree Gardens. It will be for the benefit of "Music at the Arboretum." Innisfree will be turned into a wonderland of flowering plants and hanging baskets for the occasion. For more information, call Ms. J. Gorman, 677-5343.



Debbie Klugman (center) is embraced by her sister as Helen Luckey (left) and Debbie Brewer applaud at the end of their graduation ceremony.

Sowing Success at Cary

Text and Photos by Robin Parow

On April second at the New York Botanical Garden's "Crystal Palace" — the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory — fourteen young men and women stood up to receive diplomas and congratulations from Dr. Howard Irwin, President of the Garden, and Carlton Lees, Senior Vice President and Director of the School of Horticulture Program. Since 1891, student horticulturists have been a part of the Botanical Garden. Their interest and enthusiasm in learning the hows and whys of this specialized science has enlivened the Bronx-based garden as they worked for 19 months towards graduation.

But for this year's group of graduates, memories of the NYBG program may be much different from those of their predecessors: some students spent up to seven months in the anything-but-urban environment of the Cary Arboretum. For participating staff members, the arrival of this first group of students meant weeks of preparing and organizing: living quarters, class schedules, field trips, and work assignments all had to be arranged and rearranged to fit the students' needs.

On July 1, 1978, eight city-oriented students moved into the newly-converted dormitories (the Conover and Lovelace Houses) on Fowler Road. Their reluctance to leave the Bronx environment was heightened by discovering that without a car, the most convenient grocery store was a good three mile walk into Millbrook. Apprehensions were eased by Cary staff members who helped show them the ropes of country living. Before long, the adjustment process was complete: Big Macs and subways were replaced by vegetarian cooking and jogging.

At the same time, Cary "instructors" were adjusting, too. Grounds Foreman John Bouton had his first experience in teaching young women the art of tree climbing. "There was an even percentage of male and female students," he recalls, "but one young lady really caught on . . . others were really petrified at the thought of climbing 40 feet to prune a tree." Carrying 20 pounds of necessary baggage—a saw, pruner, ropes, and paint-can—students buckled themselves into a belted sling-saddle and tried their luck at climbing into the heights of leaves and branches.

This sample of practical experience or "learning by doing" at Cary is what has made the NYBG Horticulture Program the second of its kind in the United States. According to Cary Horticulturist Ms. Carol Young, other institutions offer degree programs in Horticulture only through academic or classroom instruction.

The union of the Garden's Cary Arboretum with the program in the Bronx has formed a unique curriculum which combines academic introduction to Horticulture with practical work experience.

According to students' interests in rural or urban Horticulture, options on the location of their training are decided in the early stages of the program. For example, those who wish to pursue propagation techniques of woody ornamentals or field-growing techniques are encouraged to take up to a seven month residence at Cary. On the



Dr. Irwin addresses the students in the New York Botanical Garden's Conservatory.

other hand, those with a forté for growing tropical plants or produce flowering displays would be more inclined to spend most of their training-time at the NYBG Conservatory.

At the Arboretum, this first group of students excelled in such out-of-door training as surveying, grounds maintenance, tree identification and arboriculture. The Arboretum's greenhouse-nursery complex also served as a back-bone for experience in greenhouse procedures and nursery management taught, respectively, by Paul Mihan, Alex Pearl and their fellow workers.

In addition to the daily eight to four-thirty routine, special lectures, slide presentations and demonstrations were woven into the schedules of Cary staff members and students. For instance, a field trip to the White Flower Farm in Litchfield, Connecticut provided an example of a large mailorder wholesale-retail business.

By getting a taste of the different facets of Horticulture, students began to lean toward specific areas of the vocation. Ms. Karen Asherman, now employed at Cary, found her niche in the Arboretum's Surveying Department. Robert Earl has recently set up a small business in outdoor grounds maintenance. One day after graduation, Ms. Bonnie Billet began working for the State of New Jersey as the only female gardener in Tenafly Park.

In evaluating the Program, the statistics alone are enough to form a complete impression. Out of 80 applications received to join this class, 16 were accepted. Of the 14 graduating Horticulturists 19 months later, 13 had found appropriate employment, some as early as two months before graduation.

On June first, a new group of nine students will come to Cary. According to Arboretum Horticulturist Mr. Bob Hebb, who coordinates the Cary segment of the program with Ms. Carol Young, some changes may take place in preparing for the arrival of the "class of '81." The committee for the School of Horticulture is presently exploring the possibility of expanding the program to three years. "In doing this," says Mr. Hebb, "there could be a greater emphasis on practical work."

The students' eagerness to get first-hand, supervised experience has proven to be advantageous to the NYBG, and, of course, to their own futures in a field where there is a demand for competent, well-trained Horticulturists.

The Art of Tree Pruning: An Exhibit

Tree cavities, weak branch unions, frost cracks and rubbing branches are all common tree problems. But how can you prevent them from damaging your trees at home?

Arboretum Horticulturist Bob Hebb recognized the need for an informative display and has put together a 40-piece wood exhibit demonstrating the hows and whys of tree pruning.

Originally developed as a teaching tool for students studying arboriculture, the wood collection was assembled over a six-month period while Grounds Foreman John Bouton and his crew took specimens from the Arboretum grounds. The collection of wood aroused interest at the workshop for State Foresters held at the Arboretum in early January, and later went on to make its public debut at the Community Cultural Center's second annual Plant Show held at the Mid-Hudson Civic Center in March.

According to Mr. Hebb, one of the challenges in presenting a display of this kind was to make it interesting as well as informative. The wood specimens were placed on pedestals and were arranged in an artistically-designed, decorative display which, at first glance, appears to be an aesthetic arrangement of wood sculpture.

On closer examination, the sculpture pieces are seen to be an informative presentation of tree problems and how to correct them. Some examples are: the proper procedure to remove a branch; how tree cavities develop and how to prevent them; the prevention and cure of structural defects; girdling trunks; examples of organic mulches; and how to prune shrubs.

The display is currently on exhibit in the lobby of the Arboretum's solar heated Plant Science Building on the Sharon Turnpike. Visiting hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm and Sunday, 1:30 to 3:30 pm.

The Cary Shop: A new Community Resource

A cheerful room once used as a dining area in the handsome Federal-style Gifford House is now colorfully decorated with mobiles, posters, plants, and gifts from around the world. The Cary Arboretum Gift Shop, which has evolved through the efforts of many staff-members and volunteers, is quickly becoming a community resource center for gardening tools, books, and plants.

According to the Cary Shopkeeper Mrs. Peggy Taft, many of the items sold in the shop parallel the Arboretum's education program. Here, education students can purchase materials or extra literature relevant to the classes they are taking and usually can pick up a few extra gardening tips from the always-friendly volunteers who tend shop for a total of over 25 hours each week. Without these dedicated volunteers, the Gift Shop could not exist.

Mrs. Taft works closely with Mrs. Sandy Reilly who joined the Arboretum staff last November. Mrs. Reilly's main responsibility is to maintain the

Cary Plant Shop located in the nearby sun-room of the Gifford House. This shop, which is always a main attraction during the Arboretum's semi-annual plant sales, is supplied mostly with plants grown in the Arboretum's Greenhouse on Route 82.

Mrs. Reilly notes that the average visitor to the Plant Shop buys common, easy-to-grow house plants. To inspire visitors to widen their house plant horizons, she has recently introduced monthly sales that include care information on specific plant groups. The plants featured in May are flowering plants, including African Violets (*Saintpaulia*) and herbs that were sown in conjunction with the Education Department's classes in herb gardening. The plants featured during the month of June will be New Guinea Impatiens (*Impatiens Sp.*) and miniature roses.

The shop is open Tuesday through Friday 11:00 am to 4:30 pm and weekends from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. For more information, call 677-5358.

Five Summer Concerts Planned

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Plant Science Building. July 15 the music goes outdoors again for a Scott Joplin concert with a dance group accompaniment. The final concert, July 29, in the Plant Science Building, will present the Filigree Ensemble, including harp, flute, viola, and cello.

In the event of rain, the June 3 Orchestra concert will be rescheduled for June 10. All other concerts will be given indoors in the Plant Science Building on the scheduled dates.

Concerts all begin at 4:00 p.m. Tickets are available for the series and for individual concerts at the Cary Arboretum (914-677-5343) or at the box office at the Mid-Hudson Civic Center, Poughkeepsie.

Series tickets are priced at \$25.00 for the five

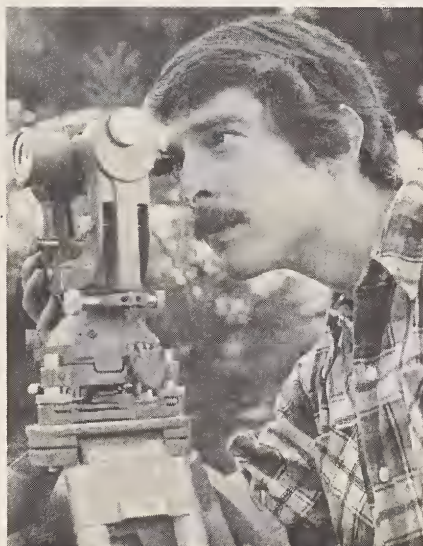
concerts, \$22.50 for senior citizens and \$10.00 for children under 12. Series tickets may be used in any combination at any concert.

Tickets to individual concerts are \$6.00 each, \$5.25 for senior citizens, and \$2.00 for children under 12.

Members of the Friends of the Arboretum may buy series tickets for \$22.50 and individual concert tickets at \$5.25.

The programs have been planned by a volunteer Music Committee at the Arboretum, consisting of Mrs. John Kubie, Mrs. Amos Newcombe, Mrs. June Payne, Mrs. Charles Podmaniczky, Mrs. Marianne Scialli, Mrs. Elvin Seibert, Mrs. Roseann Shankman, Mrs. Joseph Tumblety, Mrs. Allerton Cushman, and Mrs. Jeanette Gorman.

People at the Arboretum



Brad Roeller, Surveyor

When Brad Roeller says he's walked just about every inch of the Arboretum grounds, you can bet that he has. As the Arboretum's staff surveyor, he is tackling the unique challenge of developing a 2,000 acre grid system — an organized way of locating plants and trees — for reference and mapping on the Arboretum's varied terrain. The system is based on a national grid system and is integrated with world coordinates for latitude and longitude. Rare and experimental plantings can be easily located by Cary's Horticultural staff because of Brad's full-time success with the surveying project.

Originally from Rockwell Center, Long Island, Brad moved to Millbrook with his parents and three sisters in 1965. He attended SUNY at Morrisville, graduated with an AAS in Natural Resources Conservation and transferred to Cornell University where he received a BS in Environmental Conservation in 1973.

In 1973, he married a young lady who shared such active interests as tennis, hiking, jogging, backpacking, gardening, and "spelunking" — or

caving. "And not Howe Cavern-type caves," he grins, "those crawl-around openings in caves that are rich in limestone — you can find some in Salisbury, Connecticut."

He and his wife Louise live in Millbrook and have a three-year-old son, Philip, who, at this stage, wants to be a truck driver. Louise is a graduate of Bennett College where she majored in fashion design. Besides sharing Brad's interests, she sews and has an inherited musical background from her family, the Andersons of Mabbettsville.

At Cary, Brad is an information resource on the identification of plants and trees as his professional interests also include botany, forestry, and ecology.

That swift-moving object you may see jogging around the Arboretum's internal road system just might be Brad. . . Long after others have gone home it is evident that his love for the out-of-doors exceeds an 8-hour day of surveying and associated duties at the Cary Arboretum.

Around the Arboretum

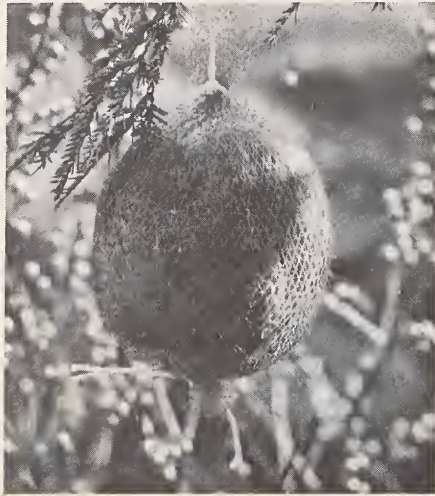


Photo by Robin Furrow

A hair ball at the Arboretum protects valuable plantings from deer damage.

Hair Balls at the Science Academy

The Arboretum's research on hair balls as a deer repellent is the subject of an article in the April issue of the prestigious magazine "The Sciences", published by the New York Academy of Sciences.

The Article describes the Arboretum research project being conducted by Wildlife Biologist Jay McAninch, his staff and volunteer helpers, and mentions financial support for the research from Seligman & Latz, Inc., the worldwide chain of department and specialty store hair salons.

In appropriately scientific terms, the magazine says:

"McAninch hasn't yet learned exactly what it is about human hair that deer find obnoxious, but he suspects that the answer has something to do with the oily sebum secreted onto hair by the scalp's sebaceous glands. Sebum is an odoriferous mixture of fats and the debris of dead fat-producing cells."

During the past six months, articles on the Arboretum's hair ball research have appeared in the New York Times, Bioscience Magazine, local newspapers, Sports and Field, Outdoor Life, and the "My Weekly Reader" children's magazine.

Chinese Botanists Visit Cary

Five Chinese botanists visited the Cary Arboretum and the New York Botanical Garden May 8 through 10 under arrangements made by Dr. Thomas S. Elias, Assistant Director of the Arboretum.

The five Chinese scientists are part of a ten-man delegation from the People's Republic of China, which will spend the month of May touring botanical and horticultural institutions in the United States under auspices of the Botanical Society of America. Their visit reciprocates the tour of China last summer by a delegation of ten members of the Botanical Society. Dr. Elias was one of the delegates.

The Chinese scientists, who are particularly interested in plant systematics, arrived in Millbrook the evening of May 8, after visiting Harvard University, and spent May 9 examining

the programs of the Arboretum and viewing its plant collections and other displays. The next day they traveled to the Bronx to see the New York Botanical Garden, and then went on to Miami, Florida. Their month-long itinerary also includes Washington, D.C., Yale University, Cornell, University of Wisconsin, Michigan State University, University of Illinois, Missouri Botanical Garden, and botanical institutions in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay area. Expenses of the visit are being defrayed by grants from the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the Rockefeller Foundation.

Daniel Brown Named to Energy Task Force

Daniel F. Brown, Cary Arboretum Capital Projects Manager, has recently been named to the Dutchess County Energy Task Force. He will join a group of 17 local government officials and involved citizens who will work to develop a service that will offer guidance to municipalities, school districts and hospitals in their efforts to conserve energy.

Dutchess County Executive Lucille Patterson recently called for the creation of an energy task force and named Cooperative Extension Executive Director Leslie J. Rollins to head up the effort. Mr. Rollins, who is familiar with Dan Brown's work in the planning and construction of the Arboretum's solar heated Plant Science Building, added Mr. Brown to the Force in mid-March.

The Task Force will serve as a liaison and communications link between the New York State Energy Office, the Cornell Energy Task Force, and other agencies involved with energy conservation.

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